



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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DATE: September 1, 2020
TO: Members, Election Commission
FROM: Meagan Wolfe
Administrator

SUBJECT: Ballot Access for 2020 General Election Presidential Candidates – Parties with Ballot Status

This memorandum presents a summary of ballot access processes and certification of presidential candidates representing ballot status parties who are requesting ballot access for the 2020 General Election.

Ballot Status Party Candidates for President and Vice President

There are three ballot status parties in Wisconsin: the Democratic, the Republican, and the Constitution Parties.

Parties that have achieved ballot status qualify for a separate ballot or column at the partisan primary and are identified by the party they represent on the general election ballot. Ballot status is achieved either by a petition process or by the party's performance at the last general election.

Party order is determined by the highest number of votes cast in the highest office in the last general election. Wis. Stat. § 5.64(1)(es). Three of the five recognized political parties listed on the official ballot at the November 6, 2018 General Election (Republican, Democratic, and Constitution) achieved ballot status for 2019-2020 by fielding candidates for governor who received at least one percent (1%) of the total votes cast for governor. The party with the most votes appears first, and the other parties follow in descending order proportional to the number of votes cast for each party.

The names of candidates for President and Vice President for ballot status parties are placed on the General Election ballot when their names are certified by the state or national chairperson to the Wisconsin Elections Commission no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday in September of a Presidential year (September 1, 2020). Wis. Stat. § 8.16(7). Each certified candidate must also file a Declaration of Candidacy (EL-162) with the Wisconsin Elections Commission by that date. Each of the three ballot status parties fielded a slate of candidates:

Party	Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate
Democratic Party	Joseph R. Biden	Kamala D. Harris
Republican Party	Donald J. Trump	Michael R. Pence
Constitution Party	Don Blankenship	William Mohr

Staff recommends that the Commission approve ballot status for the General Election of the above candidates for ballot access parties.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

Ann S. Jacobs, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Dean Knudson | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Recommended Motion:

1. Approve ballot status for the 2020 General Election for the following Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates:

Party	Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate
Democratic Party	Joseph R. Biden	Kamala D. Harris
Republican Party	Donald J. Trump	Michael R. Pence
Constitution Party	Don Blankenship	William Mohr